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Peacebuilding Commission
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Review of the outcome of the High-level Special Session of the Peacebuilding Commission on Sierra Leone

The Peacebuilding Commission,

1. *Recalls* the outcome of its High-level Special Session on Sierra Leone held on 10 June 2009 (PBC/3/SLE/6);

2. *Welcomes* the joint progress report on the Agenda for Change and its conclusions and recommendations, and expresses appreciation to the Government of Sierra Leone, the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL), the United Nations country team, international partners and civil society for the inclusive, comprehensive and detailed manner in which the progress report was prepared;

3. *Notes* that the integrated approach to peacebuilding adopted in Sierra Leone can provide valuable lessons learned and best practices to other post-conflict and peacebuilding environments;

4. *Welcomes* the steady progress made towards peace consolidation and economic development by Sierra Leone with the support of UNIPSIL, the United Nations country team and international partners, and in particular notes with appreciation:

(a) Efforts by the major political parties of Sierra Leone, as supported by UNIPSIL, to implement the agreements contained in the joint communiqué of April 2009, the conclusion of the independent inquiry into the events of March 2009 and the commitment of the Government of Sierra Leone to restructure the Political Parties Registration Commission in order to enable it to play a greater role in promoting mediation among the parties and in regulating their conduct;

(b) The appointment of a new Anti-Corruption Commissioner and the continued efforts of the Anti-Corruption Commission to combat corruption by implementing a national anti-corruption strategy, prosecuting criminals, reinforcing institutional safeguards and conducting attitudinal change outreach programmes;

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(c) The transformation of the Joint Drug Interdiction Task Force into a Transnational Organized Crime Unit under the West Africa Coast Initiative and its efforts to fight illicit drug trafficking;

(d) Efforts to build the capacity of the Sierra Leone Police to address public order incidents and conduct investigations, and initiatives to improve cooperation with the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces;

(e) The development of a new youth employment strategy and establishment of a National Youth Commission, as well as ongoing efforts to appoint a Youth Commissioner and ensure the full and effective implementation of the strategy;

(f) The creation, with the support of UNIPSIL and the United Nations country team, of the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation as an independent public service broadcaster;

(g) Recent initiatives to enhance the participation of women in peacebuilding and national politics, including efforts to attain a 30 per cent quota for women in elective and other governance positions, as recommended by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and the formulation and adoption of the Sierra Leone action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008);

(h) The work of the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone to enshrine a culture of human rights and democratic governance;

5. *Reaffirms* the importance of providing necessary support for the Agenda for Change, and in this respect notes the slow pace of contributions to the multi-donor trust fund established to attract new donors to implement the United Nations joint vision for Sierra Leone;

6. *Welcomes* the role of the Peacebuilding Fund in addressing critical peacebuilding challenges in Sierra Leone;

7. *Also welcomes* the Aid Policy of the Government of Sierra Leone, and encourages the Government of Sierra Leone to further increase aid effectiveness, with the support of UNIPSIL, the United Nations country team and its development partners;

8. *Commends* the United Nations family, under the leadership of the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General, and other international partners for aligning international assistance with the Agenda for Change in accordance with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness;

9. *Stresses* the need for continued national leadership and sustained international support to overcome the root causes of the conflict, address emerging threats to peace consolidation and establish the conditions conducive to holding free, fair and peaceful elections in 2012;

10. *Reiterates* the importance of deepening cooperation among the member States of the Mano River Union, and in this context welcomes the efforts of the National Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone to ensure that Guinean citizens residing in Sierra Leone can take part in the first round of elections in Guinea;

11. *Acknowledges* the progress made in the implementation of the strategic priorities of the Agenda for Change with respect to the energy sector and transport

infrastructure as measures supporting peace consolidation and promoting sustainable development;

12. *Notes* that the work of the Special Court for Sierra Leone has had important benefits for peace consolidation in Sierra Leone and that successful completion of the work of the Special Court will contribute significantly to lasting peace in Sierra Leone;

A. Engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission

13. *Reiterates* its decision to focus its engagement on good governance and the rule of law, illicit drug trafficking and youth employment, as well as its decision to advocate for greater subregional cooperation and the promotion of gender equality and human rights;

14. *Decides*, with respect to good governance and the rule of law, to further focus its engagement on the following issues:

(a) Multi-party dialogue and democratic governance;

(b) Corruption;

(c) Preparations for free, fair and peaceful elections in 2012;

(d) Capacity to maintain the rule of law, in particular with respect to the Sierra Leone Police and courts;

15. *Requests* the Government of Sierra Leone, in collaboration with its international partners and all relevant stakeholders, to provide an annual progress report on the implementation of the Agenda for Change no later than September 2011, to be preceded by a brief update six months prior, and welcomes the recommendation in the progress report to develop a results framework for the Agenda for Change;

B. Recommendations

Government of Sierra Leone

16. *Recommends* that the Government of Sierra Leone:

(a) Further reinforce peace consolidation and good governance by:

(i) Continuing to engage with all relevant national stakeholders to build national unity through constructive and open dialogue, in particular in the public domain, with the participation of all sectors of the Sierra Leone community and at all levels of Government;

(ii) Continuing the fight against corruption, maintaining a zero-tolerance approach and pursuing wider attitudinal change;

(iii) Continuing to ensure an appropriate balance of power between the executive, legislative and judicial branches by further strengthening the role of Parliament and consolidating progress in the administration of justice;

(iv) Continuing to strengthen the multi-party democratic culture of Sierra Leone;

(v) Continuing its support for the National Electoral Commission and the Political Parties Registration Commission in ensuring effective preparations for fair, free and peaceful elections in 2012;

(vi) Implementing, with the support of international partners, the remaining recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, including by providing resources for relevant implementation and follow-up mechanisms;

(b) Deliver a peace dividend to citizens by:

(i) Implementing the new youth employment strategy by strengthening efforts to match skills training with market demand and by operationalizing the National Youth Commission as soon as possible;

(ii) Increasing the transparency and management of the natural and mineral resources of Sierra Leone for the benefit of all Sierra Leoneans;

(iii) Continuing, with the support of international partners, to make progress on decentralization and improved local accountability as an important step towards the delivery of services throughout Sierra Leone and the development of the State;

(c) Strengthen capacity to respond to security threats by:

(i) Continuing to support the efforts of the Transnational Organized Crime Unit to monitor and interdict the trafficking of illegal goods, including narcotics and small arms and light weapons;

(ii) Strengthening the capacity of the Sierra Leone Police in order to maintain the rule of law in a responsive and neutral manner, and in this respect also continuing to improve cooperation with the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces;

National stakeholders

17. *Urges* the major political parties to further implement the recommendations in the joint communiqué of April 2009, engage in constructive and inclusive multi-party dialogue and make effective use of the Political Parties Registration Commission;

18. *Stresses* the need for the media of Sierra Leone to exercise its democratic role in a responsible and impartial manner;

19. *Welcomes* the participation of civil society in all aspects of peace consolidation in Sierra Leone, and in particular notes with appreciation the contribution of civil society to the development of the joint progress report on the Agenda for Change;

International partners

20. *Recommends* that international partners:

(a) Continue to align international assistance behind the Agenda for Change, respond to emerging funding needs and employ, among other existing mechanisms, the multi-donor trust fund for financing further peace consolidation and social and economic development, including through the ongoing infrastructure development

programmes outlined in the Agenda for Change and in keeping with the principle of national ownership;

(b) Assist in the preparations for the 2012 elections by addressing related funding needs and providing technical assistance, including through necessary support for the work of the National Electoral Commission and the Political Parties Registration Commission;

(c) Support the further institutionalization and decentralization of the Anti-Corruption Commission, the expansion of its current efforts to combat corruption and the implementation of all relevant initiatives undertaken by the United Nations and other partners, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Anti-Corruption Academy in Vienna;

(d) Support further subregional cooperation in combating illicit drug trafficking, especially through the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Mano River Union, and provide the Transnational Organized Crime Unit with the financial and technical assistance necessary to expand its capacity;

(e) Support the implementation of the new youth employment strategy, the establishment of the National Youth Commission and the scaling up of successful youth employment and empowerment programmes;

(f) Assist the Government of Sierra Leone in implementing the remaining recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

C. Commitments

Members of the Sierra Leone Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission,

21. *Commit* themselves to pursuing the recommendations outlined in paragraph 20 above, and express their intention in the next review period, in full consultation with the Government of Sierra Leone and UNIPSIL, to develop a resource mobilization strategy aimed at helping to bridge existing funding gaps, including by targeting non-traditional donors through the multi-donor trust fund and exploring alternative aid modalities such as South-South cooperation, in kind contributions, and engagement with the private sector;

22. *Commit* themselves to advocating on behalf of Sierra Leone, in particular with respect to supporting and scaling up the key peacebuilding initiatives outlined in the joint progress report on the Agenda for Change;

23. *Continue* to support the activities of UNIPSIL and the United Nations country team in Sierra Leone, in particular the role of UNIPSIL in promoting inter-party dialogue and establishing the foundations for free, fair and peaceful elections in 2012;

24. *Emphasize* the importance of adopting a regional perspective to combating illicit trafficking, and intends to establish closer working relations with the African Union, ECOWAS and the Mano River Union;

25. *Express* their intention to work with the Government of Sierra Leone to distil in a concrete manner best practices and lessons learned in the area of youth employment and empowerment.